

CLAIMS

[1] An information processing device capable of sharing an image with another information processing device belonging to a same group as that of the information processing device, the information processing device comprising:

an image storage section operable to store image information;

a transmission section operable to transmit to a server a whole or a part of the image information stored in the image storage section;

an information retention section operable to retain information concerning the group which the information processing device belongs to;

a reception section operable to receive, from the server, shared image information concerning image information to be shared by all information processing devices belonging to the same group which the information processing device belongs to, the image information to be shared having been specified by the server based on the whole or the part of image information;

a display section operable to display an image in accordance with the shared image information received by the reception section;

an operation instruction section operable to provide the server with an instruction in accordance with an operation

performed by a user on the image displayed on the display section;
and

a control section operable to execute interactive image
viewing with another information processing device that belongs
5 to the same group, by using the shared image information received
by the reception section, the shared image information being
specified by the server at any time in accordance with an operation
performed by a user of any information processing device that
belongs to the same group.

10 [2] The information processing device according to claim
1, wherein

the information retention section retains information
concerning a sub group which is set up between the information
processing device and at least one information processing device
15 belonging to the same group; and

the control section executes interactive image viewing
only within the sub group.

[3] The information processing device according to claim
1, further comprising an input section operable to input a feeling
20 of the user about an image displayed on the display section,

wherein the transmission section transmits, to another
information processing device belonging to the same group, feeling
information corresponding to the feeling inputted into the input
section.

25 [4] The information processing device according to claim

2, further comprising a direct communication section operable to directly transmit to at least one information processing device belonging to the sub group, without involving the server, an image to be shared only within the sub group.

5 [5] The information processing device according to claim 3, further comprising a direct communication section operable to directly transmit, without involving the server, the feeling information to at least one information processing device belonging to the sub group.

10 [6] The information processing device according to claim 1 wherein the reception section downloads the shared image information in accordance with URL information notified from the server, the URL information indicating where the shared image information is stored.

15 [7] The information processing device according to claim 6 wherein the URL information is created based on cellular phone numbers of all the information processing devices belonging to the same group.

[8] The information processing device according to claim 20 1 wherein the operation instruction section is a touch panel.

[9] The information processing device according to claim 8, wherein

the operation instruction section is provided over the display section; and

25 the control section causes the display section to display

a shared image and a menu image with which a user performs an operation on the shared image.

[10] The information processing device according to claim 8 wherein the operation instruction section allows the user to perform an operation on a shared image by moving a finger of the user on the operation instruction section.

[11] The information processing device according to claim 1, further comprising an image input section operable to input the image information.

[12] The information processing device according to claim 11, wherein

the image input section inputs the image information and attribute information indicating a time when the image information has been inputted, and causes the image storage section to store the image information and the attribute information;

the transmission section transmits to the server the image information and the attribute information.

[13] An information processing system allowing a plurality of information processing devices belonging to a same group to share an image via a server, wherein

each of the plurality of information processing devices comprises:

an image storage section operable to store image information;

a transmission section operable to transmit to the

server a whole or a part of the image information stored in the image storage section;

an information retention section operable to retain information concerning the group which the information processing device belongs to;

a reception section operable to receive shared image information from the server;

a display section operable to display an image in accordance with the shared image information received by the reception section;

an operation instruction section operable to provide the server with an instruction in accordance with an operation performed by a user on the image displayed on the display section; and

a control section operable to control image viewing by the device,

the server comprises:

a server reception section operable to receive the image information from at least one of the plurality of information processing devices;

a server image storage section operable to store the image information received by the server reception section;

an information management section operable to manage information concerning the plurality of information processing devices belonging to the same group;

a server control section operable to specify, in accordance with the operation performed by the user and based on the image information stored in the server image storage section, image information to be shared by the plurality of information processing devices; and

a server transmission section operable to transmit, to the plurality of information processing devices, the shared image information concerning the image information which has been specified by the server control section,

the control section of each of the plurality of information processing devices executes interactive image viewing among the plurality of information processing devices, by using the shared image information specified by the server at any time in accordance with the operation performed by a user, the shared image information being received by the reception section of each of the plurality of information processing devices.

[14] The information processing system according to claim 13, wherein

the information retention section of the information processing device retains information concerning a sub group set up between two or more information processing devices which are among the plurality of information processing devices belonging to the same group, the information being managed by the information management section of the server.

the control section of the information processing device

executes interactive image viewing only within the sub group.

[15] The information processing system according to claim 13 wherein the information processing device further comprises an input section operable to input a feeling of a user about an image displayed on the display section, and transmits by using the transmission section, to another information processing device belonging to the same group, feeling information corresponding to the feeling inputted into the input section.

[16] The information processing system according to claim 14 wherein the information processing device belonging to the sub group further comprises a direct communication section operable to directly communicate with another information processing device without involving the server, and directly transmits, to another information processing device belonging to the sub group, an image which is shared only within the sub group.

[17] The information processing system according to claim 15 wherein the information processing device belonging to the sub group further comprises a direct communication section operable to directly communicate with another information processing device without involving the server, and directly transmits, to another information processing device belonging to the sub group, the feeling information.

[18] An information processing method executed by an information processing device capable of sharing an image with another information processing device belonging to a same group

as that of the information processing device, the method comprising steps of:

transmitting to a server a whole or a part of image information stored in an image storage section;

5 receiving, from the server, shared image information concerning image information to be shared by all information processing devices belonging to the same group, the image information to be shared having been specified by the server based on the whole or the part of the image information;

10 displaying an image in accordance with the shared image information received at the receiving step;

providing the server with an instruction in accordance with an operation performed by a user on the image displayed at the displaying step;

15 rereceiving the shared image information which is specified at any time by the server in accordance with the operation performed by the user; and

updating and displaying the image in accordance with the shared image information received at the rereceiving step.

20 [19] A computer-readable program for causing an information processing device to execute an information processing method for sharing an image with another information processing device belonging to a same group as that of the information processing device, the program comprising steps of:

25 transmitting to a server a whole or a part of image

information stored in an image storage section;

receiving, from the server, shared image information concerning image information to be shared by all information processing devices belonging to the same group, the image information to be shared having been specified by the server based on the whole or the part of the image information;

displaying an image in accordance with the shared image information received at the receiving step;

providing the server with an instruction in accordance with an operation performed by a user on the image displayed at the displaying step;

rereceiving the shared image information which is specified at any time by the server in accordance with the operation performed by the user; and

updating and displaying the image in accordance with the shared image information received at the rereceiving step.